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INDIANA COLLECTION
Lake County Hospitals-
Our Lady of Mercy

# Our Lady of Mercy Hospital

## Dyer, Indiana

Our Lady of Mercy Hospital is one of seventeen divisions sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy Health Corporation. Based in Farmington Hills, Michigan, the corporation operates twenty hospitals with approximately 5200 inpatient beds throughout Indiana, Iowa and Michigan. It is the largest Catholic voluntary health corporation in the United States.

## Divisional Board of Directors

The Sisters of Mercy Health Corporation is governed by a Board of Trustees which delegates a portion of its authority to a Board of Directors at each divisional hospital. Our Lady of Mercy is governed by the Trustees in conjunction with an eighteen member divisional board composed of six Sisters of Mercy, three physicians, eight community members and the hospital's chief executive.

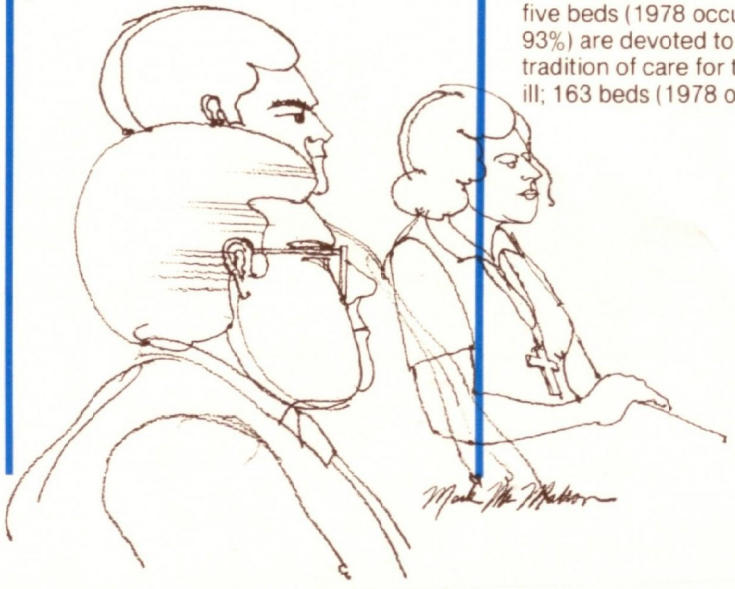
## Part of the Calumet Region since 1923

The Sisters of Mercy began serving the Calumet Region in 1923 by establishing St. Vincent's Home for the Aged in Hammond, and Mt. Mercy Sanitarium on Ridge Road in Munster. St. Vincent's eventually relocated and became Hammond's St. Ann's Home for the Aged. The home was closed in the late sixties. Mt. Mercy Sanitarium expanded its care programs for those suffering from nervous and mental disorders and moved to a new structure located on 70 acres of land in Dyer, Indiana in 1942.

## Our Lady of Mercy, a community hospital

Mt. Mercy Sanitarium served the mentally ill exclusively until 1952. In that year, following construction of two additional patient care wings, the hospital began caring for medical and surgical patients. Hospital expansion has continued since that time with facilities for laundry and power plant added in 1957, a community emergency medical service program started in 1968, new facilities for clinical laboratory services added in 1970 and a three-tier medical/surgical wing opened in 1972.

Today Our Lady of Mercy operates 258 inpatient beds, a full service emergency room which had over 11,000 patients in 1978, and a growing number of outpatient, diagnostic, and therapeutic services. Ninety-five beds (1978 occupancy rate of 93%) are devoted to continuing the tradition of care for the mentally ill; 163 beds (1978 occupancy rate



of 85%) are used for patients in need of medical or surgical care.

Our Lady of Mercy employs 781 full and part time personnel who received an annual payroll of $8.3 million. In 1978 the hospital's operating budget was $13.5 million.

The hospital medical staff is composed of 113 physicians organized into four departments: Family Practice, Medicine, Psychiatry and Surgery. Our physicians represent the following specialty and subspecialty areas:

**Anesthesiology**
**Cardiovascular Surgery**
**Dermatology**
**Emergency Medicine**
**Otolarynogology**
**Family Practice**
**General Surgery**
**Nuclear Medicine**
**Urology**
**Neurosurgery**
**Internal Medicine**
**Infectious Diseases**
**Cardiology**
**Neurology**
**Gynecology**
**Ophthalmology**
**Oral Surgery**
**Orthopedic Surgery**
**Pathology**
**Pediatrics**
**Physical Medicine**
**Plastic Surgery**
**Psychiatry**
**Psychology**
**Radiology**
**Dental**
**Gastroenterology**
**Oncology**
**Thoracic Surgery**

## Our mission

Our Lady of Mercy will use every available resource to provide the people of northwestern Indiana and nearby Illinois communities a safe, caring, Christian environment with a twofold purpose:

1. To treat and care for those who are physically or mentally ill through selected services, appropriate programs and cooperative arrangements with other providers;

2. To support and improve the physical and mental health of service area residents through promotion of cooperative efforts in professional, allied and community health education.

## Our viewpoint

We believe each person is entitled to dignity, respect and privacy. We recognize our activities extend Christ's mission among people in a technological society that craves humaneness, hope and love. Our philosophy includes several precepts:

- Every patient, regardless of race, creed or financial status deserves optimum, competent and compassionate care;
- Our healing ministry concerns the whole person—physical, emotional and spiritual; our ministry includes attention to the patient's family and other aspects of his or her personal environment;
- In addition to care and treatment of physical or mental disability, we are committed to search for cooperative methods of becoming wellness oriented rather than illness oriented in our future plans and programs;
- We must insure that our Divisional Board selects qualified and conscientious physicians who will be guided by medical staff bylaws approved by the Divisional Board;
- We best fulfill our public trust and service in a cost effective manner through participation and cooperation with appropriate health planning agencies;

• Our healing responsibilities include helping individuals adjust to limited health potential when circumstances prohibit full recovery and preparing patients and families who must cope with the fact of terminal illness;

• Finally, we understand that our own hospital personnel are worthy of the same respect and dignity afforded to our patients. Our employees should be reimbursed for their services at a level of compensation and in working conditions which assure competence, social justice and the opportunity for full development of their abilities.

## Community health care services: the personal touch

Today's hospital is the cornerstone of the health care delivery system. Our Lady of Mercy is an acute care hospital oriented, designed, equipped and staffed to take care of patients with acute illnesses or acute aggravation of chronic illnesses. Our scope of services includes the ability to privide diagnostic and therapeutic care for most common illnesses and for a select number of the more common serious and complicated illnesses such as heart disease, stroke, cancer and all major psychiatric disorders. The hospital maintains transfer agreements with other health care providers for the patient who needs a range of services beyond the sophistication of a community hospital.

Because of increased specialization and the exceedingly high cost of diagnostic and treatment equipment, a single hospital by itself can no longer expect to provide optimum health services. Coordination with other institutions is required.

Over ten years ago, Our Lady of Mercy recognized that the trend for community hospitals attempting to be all things to all people was coming to an end. Hospital leadership decided to allow other local hospitals to develop such specialized services as obstetrical and pediatric care. Our Lady of Mercy concentrated on developing the most needed medical, surgical and emergency care services with specialized capabilities in psychiatric care.

## Medical, surgical and ambulatory care

Currently the components of Our Lady of Mercy's medical/surgical program includes inpatient care for most common illnesses and surgical needs, specialized care for certain more complicated conditions, and ambulatory care consisting of a complete emergency service and diagnostic testing. Outpatient examination and therapy services by such allied medical units as clinical laboratory, radiology, nuclear medicine, physical therapy and occupational therapy are also available.

Future medical/surgical program developments will emphasize the ambulatory care component including outpatient diagnostic testing, outpatient surgery, and other outpatient services not otherwise provided by the private practicing primary care physician. Some of these services would include preventive screening, social services, health education and home health care.

The scope of the emergency program encompasses medical emergencies, routine non-emergency medical visits and psychiatric treatment.

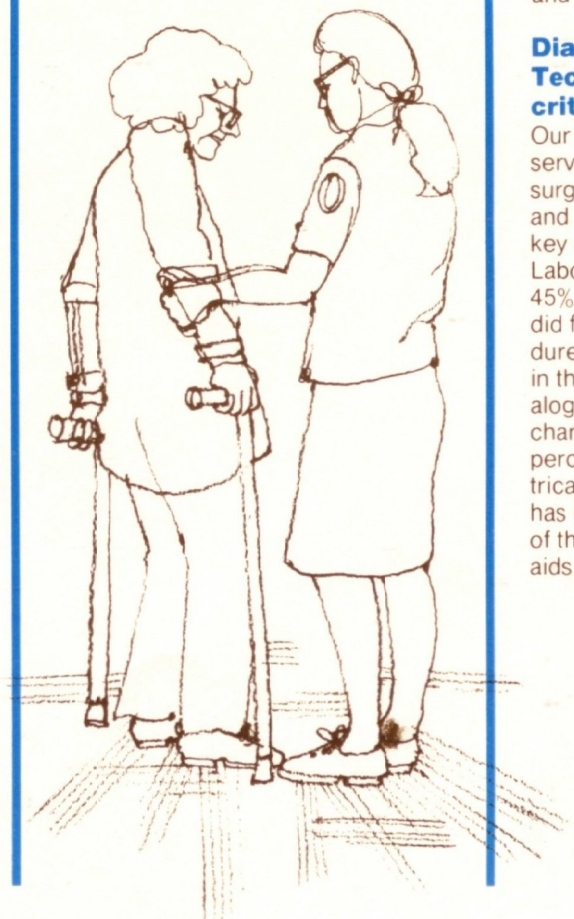
Plans are underway to develop complete programs for stroke rehabilitation, cardiac rehabilitation and chronic disease support programs for such illnesses as diabetes, emphysema, rheumatoid arthritis and cancer.

## Psychiatric program development

Historically, general hospital psychiatric services included room, bed, food, medication and a limited number of therapeutic and supportive activities. Most of the therapy was provided by the psychiatrist. Advances in behavioral science, increased professionalism of other mental health workers, the need to provide more intense therapeutic milieu for patients, increased demand for more services, and increased utilization of inpatient services have all interacted to shift the therapeutic responsibility. Today, a collaborative model of therapy by psychiatrist, patient and mental health professionals results in a team milieu approach to a continuum of therapeutic events through hospitalization.

Four years ago OLMH began giving top priority to modernization and expansion of psychiatric care programs. Contemporary inpatient treatment modes, development of outpatient and partial hospitalization services, and greater use of occupational/recreational therapy in the treatment of psychiatric patients are phases of this expansion. Also included is the replacement of existing, outmoded facilities with a new addition specifically designed for the delivery of modern psychiatric services.

Our Lady of Mercy recruited mental health professionals and developed a progressive and contemporary inpatient care program. Separate treatment plans are established for each of the following areas of care: intensive treatment, young adult, general psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry, alcoholism. Each treatment plan offers the attending physician a broad scope of therapy modes and activities from which to tailor treatments related to the individual patient's needs. Included in these treatment plans are group therapy, psychodrama, communication groups, occupational therapy exercise sessions, recreational therapy, self-help alcoholism groups, and substance abuse groups.



Another component of the new psychiatric program is day hospital care or partial hospitalization. This component is proposed as an adjunct to inpatient care and physicians' office practice and would be designed for persons with mental or emotional disorders who require only part of a 24-hour day in supervised therapy and activities.

## Diagnostics: Technology aids critical decisions

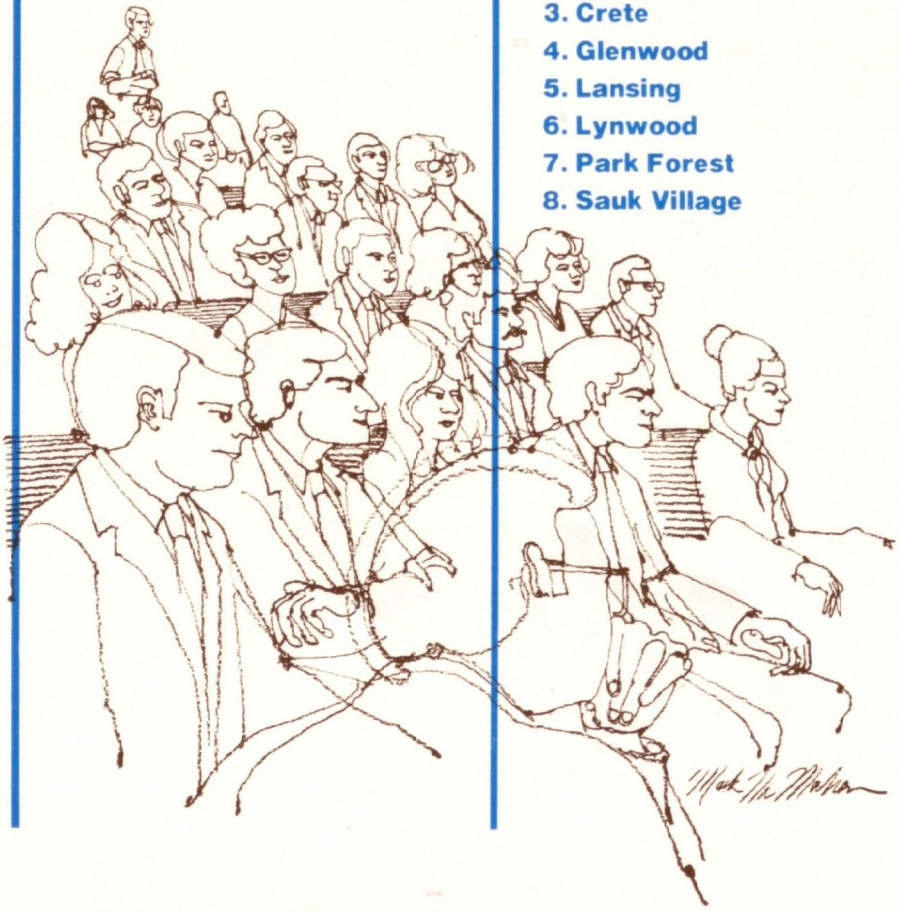
Our Lady of Mercy's diagnostic services support inpatient medical/surgical services, psychiatric services and ambulatory care. Demands for key diagnostic services are heavy. Laboratory technicians performed 45% more tests this year than they did five years ago. Radiology procedures have increased 33 percent in the last five years. Electroencephalographic studies of electrical changes in the brain increased 70 percent in the last half-decade; electrical heart monitoring (EKG) activity has increased over 67 percent. One of the fastest growing diagnostic aids is nuclear medicine which uses

radioactive isotopes to pinpoint trouble spots in the body. Nuclear diagnostic services have increased 132 percent in the last five years. Our Lady of Mercy has one of the finest nuclear labs in the area and operates a certified school for nuclear medicine technology—the only school of its kind in northern Indiana.

### The hospital as teacher

Our Lady of Mercy believes continuing education, professional education and community education programs enhance the quality of service the hospital offers. The hospital has a department of staff development responsible for continuing education of hospital personnel. Our Lady's medical staff is developing continuing education programs. The hospital is affiliated with ten colleges and universities to provide educational opportunities for such allied health professionals as pharmacists, occupational therapists, laboratory technicians, medical record technicians, operating room technicians, medical/surgical and psychiatric nursing students, radiological technology and physical therapy students. Plans are to increase the hospital's role in professional education with emphasis on graduate psychiatric nursing, biomedical engineering, medical record administration, hospital and health administration, clinical pastoral ministry, and post graduate medical education with special emphasis on psychiatry.

Present community health education programs include quit smoking clinics, high blood pressure screening, home delivered meals, cardiopulmonary resuscitation training, a comprehensive consumer health information course, and periodical seminars in such health aspects as nutrition, diabetes and stress management. Plans are to broaden the hospital's role in community health education with an emphasis on correlating hospital activity with such community institutions as Lake Area United Way, community mental health centers, and others involved in community and preventive health education in the service area.



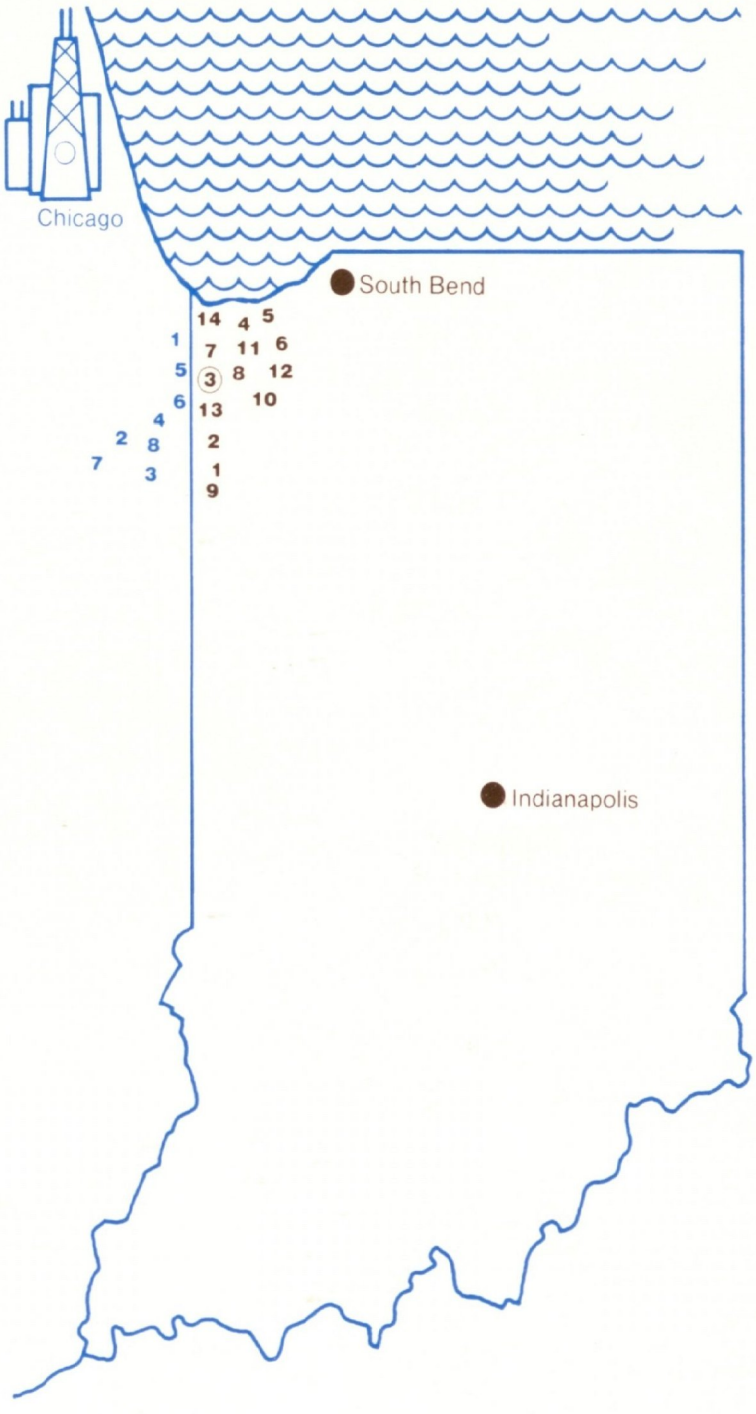
### Communities we serve

Our Lady of Mercy's Hospital's location makes it unique. Approximately half of the hospital's 70 acre site is located in Illinois. The other acreage is located in Indiana. Most of the hospital buildings are currently located on the Indiana side. Long range construction plans may put some structures on the Illinois property, but details about such facility developments are not yet complete.

Our Lady of Mercy serves patients from both Indiana and Illinois, including the following communities:

### Illinois

1. **Calumet City**
2. **Chicago Heights**
3. **Crete**
4. **Glenwood**
5. **Lansing**
6. **Lynwood**
7. **Park Forest**
8. **Sauk Village**




## Indiana

1. Cedar Lake
2. Crown Point
3. Dyer
4. East Chicago
5. Gary
6. Griffith
7. Hammond
8. Highland
9. Lowell
10. Merrillville
11. Munster
12. Schererville
13. St. John
14. Whiting

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